GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3979
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2002
USE OF FERTILIZER
CHANDRA PRATAP SINGH;SUBODH ROY;SUNIL KHAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Agriculure and Cooperation participated in Inter GovernmentalCommittee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Floklore of World Intellectual Property Organisation held during June 2002;

(b) if so, whether the report adopted by the Committee states that Indian delegation indicated inthe meeting that Health Heritage Database has established in India;

(c) if so, the details of above database and web-site, including organizations involved in creating database, quantity of data, specification and sources of data, year and month of its establishment and amount spent for creating above database, category-wise;

(d) whether WIPO invited contributions to be submitted before April 26, 2002, on traditionalknowledge including medicinal, agricultural, scientific and technical knowledge alongwith details of national periodicals, journals or gazettes concerning traditional knowledge-related issues for immediate knowledge of patent examiners for defeating false claims;

(e) if so, the details submitted including `Wealth of India` and Medicinal and aromatic plants abstract published by CISR, if any;

(f) whether information from Wealth of India was used to protect use of turmeric for wound healing; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The draft report states that the delegation of India `provided demonstrations of National TK databases`.

(c): The test database that was linked on the WIPO website(http://www.wipo.int/globalissues/tk/tkportal/index.html) contains data on fifty medicinal plants in the following fields:-

1. Chemical Constituents.

2. Medicinal Properties.

3. Biological Activity.

4. Taxonomy.

5. Vernacular Names.
6. Other Industrial Uses.

7 Patents.

The data has been compiled from published literature such as books, journals, abstracts and patent documents issued by patent offices. All the data in the Test Health Heritage Database were collected from the public domain.

The Health Heritage Database that was linked to above site was initially developed byCouncil of Scientific and Industrial Research by using the in-house information and human resources of the National Chemical Laboratory, a constituent unit of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research during the period October-December, 1999.

(d): WIPO compiled inventory of Traditional Knowledge journals during March/April, 2002.

(e): National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources sent theinformation for its journal `Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge` to WIPO.

(f): Yes, Sir.

(g): Council of Scientific and Industrial Research submitted prior art references from more than30 sources including that of Wealth of India contesting the turmeric patent at United States Patents Office.